

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. Claim 18 has been added.

The drawings stand objected to because the reference numbers 30 and 60 are both directed to the same element. In response, a proposed drawing amendment is being submitted concurrently herewith in which reference numbers 30 and 32 point to different items than previously. It is submitted that the proposed changes to the specification and to Figure 1 overcome the objection. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is being unpatentable over Crane Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,941,617) in view of Bockenstette (U.S. Patent No. 3,779,374).

At the outset, Applicants note that the Examiner says that Crane Jr., et al. comprises opposite side panels (side panels deemed elements in the "enclosure" see col. 3, lines 61-67). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The enclosure as described in Crane Jr., et al. is a skeleton. The enclosure or skeleton has decorative panels A, B, C, D, E and F mounted to its exterior surfaces. By contrast, the decorative

side panels in the present invention are not necessary to cover the interior components of the computer but merely to be decorative. Thus, Crane Jr., et al. is defective for at least this reason. In Crane Jr., et al., the interior components of the computer would be covered and protected from damage by the side panels without the opposite decorative panels.

Further, the Examiner admits that Crane Jr., et al. does not state that the feet are elastomeric. The Examiner attempts to overcome this deficiency with Bockenstette. Applicants do not dispute that elastomeric feet are new but elastomeric feet are new as used in the present invention. The suggested motivation for the combination is not particularly relevant to the present invention. The decorative panel is merely decorative. Whether the decorative panel should be held together with elastomeric feet to "flex both with a torsional movement and with an inward bending movement in response to the movement thereof axially through aperture means in the elements being secured together" is irrelevant. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the obviousness rejection.

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,570) in view of Bockenstette.

Anderson et al. does not have cover panels having an interior surface corresponding in shape to an exterior surface of the side panels. Although this may be readily apparent to the Examiner, it

is not shown or taught in the prior art. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to provide a reference.

Further, the Examiner admits that Anderson et al. does not teach the use of elastomeric feet. The Examiner attempts to overcome this deficiency with Bockenstette. For the reasons discussed above with respect to the combination of Crane Jr., et al. and Bockenstette, Bockenstette does not provide a motivation for combining the references as argued by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the obvious rejection.

Claims 6, 10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane Jr., et al. in view of Bockenstette and in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 3,803,670). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

For the reasons discussed above with respect to the combination of Crane Jr., et al. and Bockenstette, Johnson does not overcome the deficiencies discussed above. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, these claims should be patentable over this combination of references and the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 09/773,556

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 5, amend lines 14-24 as follows:

As shipped from the factory, the computer case 20 will include four small rubber feet 52 on each side panel 30, 32. If the customer chooses to purchase a color upgrade kit, the customer can change the look of their PC to match their own personal style. As previously mentioned, the central portion 42 could be removed and for the side panels [50, 60] 30, 32, the customer would remove the feet 52, add the new color plates 50, 60, over the existing side panels 30, 32 and attach the four feet 52 to each side panel 30, 32. Advantageously, using the present invention, no special tools are needed. The installation is very straight forward and easy for a customer in the field to perform. Also, advantageously consumer can easily change the color and appearance of the computer case without special tools and with little risk of damaging the color panels.